

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 IOE-00 H-01 CU-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 USIE-00 OIC-02 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5662

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 00479

UNESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, ABOUREZK, JAMES

SUBJECT: INQUIRY FROM SENATOR JAMES ABOUREZK RE BYBLOS
CENTER "FORUM ON TOLERANCE"

REF: STATE 002449

1. IN RESPONSE REFTEL QUERY, PERMDEL ADVISED BY SECRETARIAT THAT UNESCO INVOLVEMENT IN SUBJECT FORUM TO BE HELD AT THE NEW INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES AND DEVELOPMENT AT BYBLOS, LEBANON, EXTENDS TO A CONTRIBUTION OF \$20,000 TO COVER TRAVEL EXPENSES OF HALF OF THE 30 PARTICIPANTS. MONEY COMES FROM 17 C/5 REGULAR PROGRAM. FURTHER, UNESCO DREW UP LIST OF SUGGESTED PARTICIPANTS FOR LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO INVITE, INCLUDING SENATOR ABOUREZK AND PROFESSOR RICHARD P. MCKEON OF UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY. BOTH SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED WITH INVITATION A WORKING DOCUMENT LISTING SUGGESTED THEMES FOR FORUM THAT UNESCO PREPARED. PERMDEL HAS REQUESTED COPY OF DOCUMENT AND WILL TRANSMIT TO DEPARTMENT UPON RECEIPT.

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2. PARTICIPANTS SUGGESTED BY UNESCO, ACCORDING TO

SECRETARIAT, ARE SOCIAL SCIENTISTS, PHILOSOPHERS AND OTHER ACADEMICS. OBSERVERS SUGGESTED BY UNESCO INCLUDE PRESTIGIOUS NGO'S SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE COUNCIL AND THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PHILOSOPHY AND HUMANISTIC STUDIES.

3. HOWEVER, LEBANESE GOVERNMENT HAS COMPLETE CONTROL OVER PARTICIPANTS TO BE INVITED AND SECRETARIAT NOT AWARE WHETHER GOL MAY INVITE OBSERVERS FROM ORGANIZATIONS OF A POLITICAL CHARACTER. IN ANY CASE, UNESCO SECRETARIAT HAS NO CONTROL OVER MEETING WHICH IT STRESSED SHOULD NOT BE CHARACTERIZED AS A UNESCO MEETING --CONTRARY TO IMPRESSION CREATED BY GOL LETTER OF INVITATION THAT BEGINS "IN AGREEMENT WITH UNESCO..."-- BUT IS ONLY PROVIDING ABOVE CITED SUPPORT ASSISTANCE AS UNESCO WOULD FOR A MEMBER STATE NATIONAL COMMISSION ACTIVITY.

4. FORUM IS THE FIRST ACTIVITY OF THE NASCENT BYBLOS CENTER. CENTER IS BEING CREATED UNDER UNESCO-GOL AGREEMENT SIGNED IN NOVEMBER 1973 AND APPROVED BY GOL LAW IN MARCH 1974. UNESCO ROLE IS LARGELY ONE OF PROVIDING MORAL AND INTELLECTUAL SUPPORT BUT VERY LIMITED FINANCIAL OR MATERIAL SUPPORT. GOL RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURING FUNDS VIA VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS, AS WELL AS PROVIDING PHYSICAL SITE AND BUILDINGS, ACCORDING TO SECRETARIAT.

5. NEVERTHELESS, IT NOTEWORTHY THAT UNESCO ASSOCIATION WITH CENTER CAUSED PROFESSOR JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN (AMERICAN HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO) TO RETRACT HIS INITIAL AGREEMENT TO SERVE ON THE CENTER'S FOUNDATION

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COMMITTEE. SECRETARIAT RECEIVED LETTER DATED DECEMBER 18 TO THIS EFFECT FROM FRANKLIN WHO CITED UNESCO'S POLITICIZATION, I.E., GENERAL CONFERENCE DECISIONS ON ISRAEL, AS BASIS FOR HIS REFUSAL. SECRETARIAT WOULD APPRECIATE THIS INFORMATION BEING TREATED ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS PENDING THEIR TRANSMITTAL SHORTLY OF FRANKLIN'S DECISION TO GOL PERMREP HERE.

6. FURTHER, IN STRICT CONFIDENCE, SECRETARIAT ALSO ADVISED DELOFF THAT GOL NOW "CONSIDERING" ASKING SENATOR ABOUREZK TO SERVE ON FOUNDATION COMMITTEE WHICH SCHEDULED TO MEET IN MARCH AND JUNE.

7. SUMMING UP, FORUM IS FIRST ACTIVITY OF THE CENTER WHICH ITSELF HAS NOT YET COME INTO PHYSICAL BEING. MEETING HAS RECEIVED ABOVE CITED FINANCIAL AND ADVISORY SUPPORT FROM UNESCO. CENTER ITSELF BEING ESTABLISHED WITH UNESCO SEAL OF APPROVAL BUT WITH GOL UNDERTAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL MEANS OF ITS REALIZATION. FOUNDATION COMMITTEE FOR CENTER APPARENTLY TO COMPRISE PRESTIGIOUS FIGURES WHO WILL BE ABLE TO ELICIT INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUPPLEMENT OFFICIAL GOL CONTRIBUTION TO CENTER'S REALIZATION.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

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